

April 11, 2001

### Congressman Akin Undergoes Surgery

Full recovery expected due to early detection.

Representative Todd Akin (R-Mo.) underwent surgery today at St. John's Mercy Medical Center in St. Louis for prostate cancer. Akin is listed in good condition. Micheal Chehval, MD, Chairman of the Division of Urologic Surgery at St. John's Mercy, said the two-and-a-half hour surgery went well and that the Congressman is expected to remain hospitalized for a few days. Due to early detection, the Congressman is expected to have a full recovery.

"I am thankful for all the encouragement and support that I and my family have received," said Akin.

Today's surgery was moved from April 13th due to availability in scheduling. The surgery was scheduled to coincide with Congress being on spring recess.

Prostate cancer is the most common form of cancer diagnosed in American men. According to the American Cancer Society (ACS) over 198,000 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer this year alone. According to the ACS, early detection is key to successful treatment. Prostate cancer recovery is nearly 100 percent when detected early at a local or regional stage.

"Since early detection is the key to successful treatment, I encourage men to have regular testing for prostate cancer," said Akin.

The American Cancer Society recommends that men over 50 years of age receive an annual exam for the early detection of prostate cancer. Those at high risk should begin testing at 45 years of age.